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FPS quick to Show Michigan the Money

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Farmington Public Schools Supt. Sue Zurvalec said that it was "no big deal" complying with a request from the Mackinac Center to post check registers online.

"We had already been posting budget information online for a couple years," Zurvalec said.

So, in October the district added a list of checks paid to vendors and businesses to the extensive amount of information the public can already access online.

It's all part of the Mackinac Center's ongoing "Show Michigan the Money" transparency project.

The center contacted each of Oakland County's 28 public school districts before school began in September.

Even before the additional information was posted, the district had already received the Meritorious Budget and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting awards from the Association of School Business Officials since 1997, Zurvalec said.

Ken Braun, director of the Show Michigan the Money Project and a policy analyst, hopes that taxpayers everywhere will take an interest in this disclosure.

"In this day and age, it's easy to scan documents and to provide the information," he said.

He complimented FPS for its quick response to his query.

"I cannot be more pleased with my interaction with them," Braun said. "They sent us a note quickly and asked, 'What can we do to help?'"

A complete listing of the districts that have agreed to provide check registers and those that have been asked is available at www.showmichiganthemoney.org.

The Show Michigan the Money Project will next focus on school districts in Michigan's other large counties, Braun said.

To view the Farmington School District's reports in particular, visit www.farmington.k12.mi.us, look for budget information on the home page and then find the check registry selection.

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